

1. Briefly define the major new perspectives that have emerged in social psychology in the past few decades to form an integrative perspective on human behavior. Do you believe that any one of these perspectives is more valuable or accurate than the others? Or do you see them as complementary? How so?
2. What are the four core assumptions of social psychology? Apply at least three of these assumptions to illuminate a recent social event, such as a conflict between two groups, a famous individual's achievement, or a popular television show.
3. Discuss some of the reasons why people are not very accurate when it comes to explaining their own behavior, and the behaviors of others, in their day-to-day lives. Include reference to the ideas of *a priori* causal theories and confirmation bias. What are some examples from your own life that support the idea that people often don't understand the true causes of their behavior?
4. Summarize two studies from the literature on stereotype threat that employed different methodologies (e.g., correlational, experimental, field research, etc.). What were the findings of these studies and how did they support stereotype threat theory?
5. Consider the abstract conceptual variable of *romantic love*. Discuss two ways in which this conceptual variable could be operationally defined in a study. Then, for one of the two ways described, indicate a possible confound that might problematize that particular operational definition.
6. Define and discuss the concepts of internal and external validity. How are we best able to determine if a study has either or both of these two types of validity? Is there a trade-off in studies between internal and external validity, or can a study achieve equal levels of both? Which form of validity do you think is most important?
7. Discuss at least two of the four limitations of science. Do you agree that science truly has these limits? What is an example of an important phenomenon that science may not be able to address? Why is science important in spite of these limits?
8. Do you believe that the use of deception is justified in social psychological experiments? Or do you think that deception is *never* necessary or justified? Provide supporting arguments for your position.

Answer Key

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
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- 8.